Summer 1966 SPANISH SCHOOL

I was very much satisfied with the performance of the School on its fiftieth anniversary. All the teachers, old and new, did a fine job, and the students seemed to enjoy more than ever the class and campus atmosphere.

Enrollment. The total enrollment was 280 students - 244 in the dormitories and 36 in the village. We had 24 less in the dormitories and 11 more in the village, compared to the summer of 1965. As we had to reject hundreds of applicants, something must be done to prevent those who were admitted from canceling their application late, thus depriving those rejected for the lack of room and leaving vacant rooms in the dormitories. We allowed only Ph.D. students and married students with family to live in the village.

The Graduate School. Since the Spanish School became a graduate school the academic level of the students has increased continuously. This session we had only one undergraduate student who was not detected in time, and her performance was not completely satisfactory. We must keep a close watch to prevent undergraduate students from entering our School.

Screening of applicants. As we have more applicants than room, I think that we should do something to ensure that we get the best. One possible way is to postpone the admissions of those applicants with dubious qualifications until we have exhausted all the qualified applicants.

Permanent Secretary. The School needs a permanent secretary who can help Dean Guarnaccia in the winter. The lack of a permanent secretary raises the problem every summer of looking for a competent one, and this is not always easy.

The courses. This summer we had a better distribution of students in the grammar and literature classes.

Conversation. The number of students is decreasing in these courses for several reasons: Spanish speaking students are not

allowed to take them; those who come from the Middlebury Spanish School in Spain do not take them; those who have lived for some time in a Spanish speaking country are excused from them. We had five conversation courses with an average enrollment of 15 in each.

Phonetics. As opposed to the conversation courses those of Phonetics had this summer a very large enrollment. The five Phonetics courses had an average each of 20 students. A new Phonetics course should be added with the purpose of helping those students who have some phonetic problem or handicap. Professor Fernández is a competent director of these courses.

Grammar. The enrollment was the usual, about 18 students in each class. We had two additional courses on a more advanced level: Spanish Syntax and Problems of Spanish Grammar, which met with great success.

Civilization. This summer we had two different civilization courses, one on Spanish Civilization and another on Latin American Civilization. I think these two courses should be given every summer. Each course had an enrollment of 40 students as compared to the more than 80 and sometimes as many as 100 students we had when we gave a single civilization course.

Literature. The three visiting professors had great success in their courses. Professor Castagnino had the largest class (65 students) in his Cultural and Literary Panorama of Latin America, and Professor Sobejano over 50 in The Spanish Novel after the Civil War. As we had more course offerings this summer in literature, the distribution in the courses was more equitable, although there were several with over 40 students. Professor Piñeiro had a great success in his two courses. The Ph.D. s tudents were only allowed to take certain courses: those of the three visiting professors, the two offered by Professor Piñeiro and my own.

Symposium on Contemporary Spanish and Latin American Literature: In the course offerings we gave an important place to contemporary literature as

a part of the activities to honor the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Spanish School. Other important activities were the two symposiums on contemporary trends, one in Spanish Literature and another in Latin American Literature. We also celebrated with a symposium on the centenary of the birth of the Spanish writer Valle-Inclán and one on Andrés Bello, the Latin American poet and grammarian, on the occasion of the centenary of his death.

We had also a reading of Spanish and Latin American poetry in which 8 professors took part.

Outings. This summer we were very fortunate with the weather which was splendid most of the summer. We had the two picnics at Lake Dunmore and the dinner on campus.

Choir. Mr. Emilio Núñez was a very successful director of singing of Spanish folk songs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and as the director of a more ambitious choir which presented a program of Spanish music of the Renaissance.

Dance. The Tina Rámirez dancers met with great success. There was not a single vacant seat in the theater and there were numerous standees.

Theater. The theater was not a complete success, and the performance of La Celestina, which at first was intended as a regular play , had to be reduced to a dramatic reading. I am looking for a new theatrical director.

Bookstore. Every year increases the volume of sales in our bookstore: 5,808.97 this summer against 4,538 last summer. Although the prices of books purchased directly from Spain is somewhat cheaper than those purchased from Las Americas, there is, nevertheless, a disadvantage to buying books in Spain because we cannot return unsold copies to the booksellers, whereas with Las Americas this is the customary practice. I think we must think over the question because it involves being left with many books on our hands. In many cases they are books which a professor put on his list to me as recommended reading for the course and which he then did not recommend in class to his students.

HUNTER COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
695 Park Avenue
New York 21, N. Y.

Romance Languages

New York September 14, 1966

Dr. Stephen A. Freeman
Director of the Language Schools
Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont

Dear Dr. Freeman: I am enclosing herewith the report on the 50th session of the Spanish School; and also the list of the expenses I incurred for that session since the Fall of 1965 to the Spring of 1966, and I forgot to give it to you in Middlebury.

I hope you had a vacation after the summer session.

Sincerely yours,

Emilio Goyanes